

We claim:

1. A method of creating and managing a dynamic group for initiating a group communication session among mobile stations in a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one rule defining a member of the dynamic group in association with a group address; and

populating the dynamic group with members from said mobile stations determined in accordance with the at least one rule.

2. The method of claim 1 including providing notification of members of the dynamic group in response to said populating.

3. The method of claim 1 including determining which of said mobile station users match the at least one rule.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining comprises receiving notification that one or more particular mobile stations match the at least one rule in accordance with respective presence information for the one or more particular mobile stations.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein determining comprises receiving notification that one or more particular mobile stations match the at least one rule in accordance with respective location information for the one or more particular mobile stations.

6. The method of claim 4 including subscribing to at least one service which provides notification of mobile

stations that match one or more rules defined in response to one or more of presence information and location information for mobile stations; and wherein, said subscribing is responsive to said at least one rule.

7. The method of claim 6 including determining an address for each of the at least one service for subscribing, said address determined from a resource list of addresses for such services.

8. The method of claim 1 including maintaining said dynamic group, removing a particular one of said mobile stations as a member in accordance with the at least one rule.

9. The method of claim 6 including receiving notification that a particular one of said mobile stations no longer matches the at least one rule.

10. The method of claim 1 including receiving a change of the at least one rule and managing the members of the dynamic group in accordance with the change wherein managing comprises at least one of adding and removing members.

11. The method of claim 1 including notifying a communications server of the members of said dynamic group for facilitating communication among said members in a group communication session.

12. The method of claim 1 including notifying a user using a mobile station of the members of said dynamic group.

13. A method for providing notification of mobile stations that match one or more rules to define members of a

dynamic group for initiating a group communication session among mobile stations in a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for notification of mobile stations matching at least one rule defined in accordance with at least one of presence information and location information for mobile stations; and

sending a notification identifying at least one particular mobile station that matches said at least one rule in response to at least one of respective presence information and location information for the particular mobile station.

14. The method of claim 13 including storing presence information published on behalf of mobile stations.

15. The method of claim 13 including storing location information published on behalf of mobile stations.

16. The method of claim 13 including sending a notification identifying a particular mobile station that no longer matches said at least one rule in response to a change in presence information published on behalf of the particular mobile station.

17. The method of claim 13 comprising evaluating at least one of presence information and location information with reference to said at least one rule to determine a match.

18. The method of claim 17 comprising subscribing to

at least one service which provides notification of mobile stations that match one or more rules defined in response to one or more of presence information and location information for mobile stations; and wherein said subscribing is responsive to said at least one rule, thereby to extend a search for mobile stations matching the at least one rule.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said subscribing extends the search to at least one of different domains and networks.

20. The method of claim 18 comprising determining an address for each of said at least one service with which to subscribe from a resource list of addresses for such services.

21. A method of creating and managing a mayday group for initiating a mayday group communication among mobile stations in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a first mobile station to initiate a group communication with at least one second communication device proximate to said first mobile station;

populating the mayday group with particular ones of said mobile stations determined in response to pre-defined rules for the mayday group and presence information and location information for said mobile stations.

22. The method of claim 21 including subscribing to at least one service to receive notification of mobile stations that match rules defined in response to one or more of

presence information and location information for mobile stations; and wherein said subscribing is responsive to said pre-defined rules.

23. The method of claim 22 comprising receiving notification of individual matching mobile stations as the individual matching mobile stations are determined by said at least one service to hasten said populating.

24. The method of claim 22 comprising further subscribing by one or more of said at least one service to one or more other such services thereby to extend a search for mobile stations matching the pre-defined rule.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said further subscribing extends the search for mobile stations to include a home network and a roaming network of said first mobile station.

26. A server for creating and managing a dynamic group for initiating a group communication session among mobile stations in a communications network, the server comprising:

a communication system for transmitting and receiving messages via the communications network;

a processor coupled to the communication system for processing messages; and

memory coupled to the processor for storing instructions to configure the processor to:

receive at least one rule defining a member of the dynamic group in association with a group address; and

populate the dynamic group with members from said mobile stations determined in accordance with the at least one rule.

27. The server of claim 26 wherein the memory further stores instructions to configure to processor to subscribe to a service providing notification of mobile stations that match the at least one rule in accordance with presence information for the mobile stations.

28. The server of claim 26 wherein the memory further stores instructions to configure to processor to provide the members of the dynamic group to a server for facilitating group communications among the members.

29. A server for defining a member of a dynamic group for initiating a group communication session among mobile stations in a communication network, the server comprising:

- a communication system for transmitting and receiving messages via the communications network;

- a processor coupled to the communication system for processing messages; and

- memory coupled to the processor for storing instructions to configure the processor to:

  - receive a request for notification of mobile stations matching at least one rule defined in accordance with presence information for mobile stations; and

  - send a notification identifying at least one particular mobile station that matches said

at least one rule in response to respective presence information for the particular mobile station.

30. The server of claim 29 wherein the memory further storing instructions to configure the processor to receive and store presence information published on behalf of the mobile stations.

31. A mobile station for initiating a group communication session among other mobile stations in a communication network, the mobile station comprising:

a communication system for transmitting and receiving messages via the communication network;

a processor coupled to the communication system for processing messages; and

memory coupled to the processor for storing instructions to configure the processor to:

transmit at least one rule defining a member of the dynamic group in association with a group address to a server adapted to create and manage the dynamic group, said server populating the dynamic group with members from said other mobile stations determined in accordance with the at least one rule.